

another mutation or other mutations in the other allele of the mutant *POLG* gene in or near a coding region of the gene.

7. (Amended) A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that the detection of the mutation is performed using a gene-technological method.

9. (Amended) A method of claim 1, **characterized** in that the detection of the mutation or mutations is performed using an immunological method, such as a Western analysis, immunohistology or immunoassay, for characterization of a mutant gene or gene product.

**REMARKS**

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

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